

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] One approach for improving the efficiency of public key exchange is presented in co-pending application Ser. No. {NUMBER} 09/393,410, filed on the same date as this application, by the same named inventor, and entitled “OPERATIONAL OPTIMIZATION OF A SHARED SECRET DIFFIE-HELLMAN KEY EXCHANGE AMONG BROADCAST OR MULTICAST GROUPS.” This approach operationally optimizes key exchange and permits nodes in a network to carry out public key exchange using far fewer messages than the number of messages required in the Diffie-Hellman approach. However, an approach using a different computational method still is desirable.